

Ending Childhood Hunger in the United States by 2015

Listening Session

The President of the United States has established a goal of ending childhood hunger by 2015, and the White House is in the process of putting together a plan to make this happen.

As USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, along with our partners, will play a lead role in pursuing this goal, we believe it is important to gather input from all stakeholders on ideas that can be rolled up to the White House for consideration in establishing this priority plan.

It is our hope that the Listening Session on Wednesday, October 7, will help with this process.

To better frame our discussion, below are questions regarding five broad strategies to prompt your thoughts. While we won't have time to cover all of them in depth, please look them over and share some of your insights with us. You can note them on this sheet or voice them to the group.

1. Do you have any suggestions for new programs that can fill in existing gaps and/or extensive policy changes to existing programs that will fundamentally change them?

2. Do you have any ideas for ways to maximize our current programs under their current authority?

3. Do you have any ideas for strategies that can help us market our current programs to the public?

4. Do you have any suggestions for strategies to help us engage partners and other stakeholders in the process of ending childhood hunger?

5. We are looking for areas where new research or data collection efforts might help us achieve this goal. In other words, what information do we need that we currently do not have?

Contact Information—optional:

- Your Name –
- Organization (if applicable) –
- Phone Number –
- Email –

Thank you for your input today.

Achieving food security (in which we all have access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life) is a very big challenge. The federal nutrition assistance programs succeed to a remarkable extent. However, we know that we must improve them and we must also do a better job in combining the program resources with complementary resources that exist within all communities—dedication, caring, vision, creativity and initiative.

***Please know that if you didn't have the opportunity to share your input today, you are welcome to forward any comments you think of after today. Send them to Bart Bushman at bart.bushman@fns.usda.gov. We don't want to set an absolute deadline, but it would be helpful if you could share your insights with us by October 21, 2009. The time is ticking toward 2015...